<u>PATENT</u>

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

n re: Sang-bom Kang et al.

Serial No.: 10/050,195 Filed: January 16, 2002

Confirmation No.: 6301 Group Art Unit: 2811 Examiner: Junghwa M. Im

INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DEVICE CONTACT PLUGS HAVING A LINER LAYI THAT EXERTS COMPRESSIVE STRESS THEREON AND METHODS OF

MANUFACTURING SAME

Date: November 18, 2002

BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

## RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This response is submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed October 23, 2002 ("the Action").

## In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 15-24 and 33-44 without prejudice or disclaimer.

## REMARKS

The Action states that restriction to one of the following inventions is required:

Invention I. Claims 1-14 and 25-32, drawn to a semiconductor device, classified in class 257, subclass 767; and

Claims 15-24 and 33-44 drawn to a method of fabricating a Invention II. semiconductor device, classified in class 438, subclass 686.

In response, Applicants elect Invention I, corresponding to Claims 1-14 and 25-32. Applicants agree that unpatentability of Invention II, which corresponds to Claims 15-24 and 33-44 would not necessarily imply unpatentability of Invention I. Accordingly, Applicants are making this election without traverse, and have cancelled Claims 15-24 and 33-44 without prejudice or disclaimer. In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 1-14 and 25-32.